

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3558
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2016
Protest Against Oil Fields Auction
Gandhi Dr. Dharam Vira

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent protests in Assam against the Government's decision to auction 12 small oil fields in the State and if so, the details thereof; and
(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to resolve the issue as well as to execute/carry out the auction amicably?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) and (b) This Ministry has received various petitions both from civil and political affiliations from the State of Assam against the decision of the Union Government to auction 12 discovered oil /gas fields of ONGC/OIL in Assam through International competitive Biddings (ICB). These fields were discovered by these companies long back, however the same could not be monetized by these companies due to various reasons. By adopting small Discovered Field Policy, Government has attempted to include certain reforms in the hydrocarbon exploration and production management with sole intention to monetize these fields at the earliest to increase the production. Under New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP), oil/ gas fields are awarded by Government through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) since 1998-99, as such, the decision to award the above fields are in line with the existing policy of Government of India. This policy does not debar Government Companies to participate in the bidding process. ONGC/OIL/State PSUs can take part in the bidding process and if found successful these fields can be awarded to these companies also. To address the misunderstandings amongst the public about the decision of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Discovered Small Field Bid Round 2016, a half-page advertisement was brought out in twelve regional newspapers of Assam on 18th July, 2016 jointly by Government oil PSUs viz OIL and ONGC.
